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FROM: Kika de la Garza, M C

WASHINGTON, D C --One of the finest operations the U S Coast Guard has is its Port Isabel Station. Last spring the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, of which I am a member, authorized funds to be used at the installation to replace the station barracks and administration building, convert a boathouse storage area into an electronics repair shop, and extend the height of the boat basin seawall. Recently I asked the Commander of the Coast Guard for a report on the status of this project. I am glad to say that excellent progress is being made.

Plans and specifications for the new construction are about 95 percent complete. The invitation for bids on the work will go out next month and a contract award will be made in December. According to present plans, construction is scheduled to be completed just a year from now, in October 1973.

So better facilities are on the way for Coast Guard personnel stationed at Port Isabel. They deserve the best. South Texans are proud of the great job they do.

* * *

FLOATING TRADE FAIR -- Wouldn't you know that it would be Texans who have hired the Queen Elizabeth 2, one of the world's largest luxury ships, to use in staging a 60-day floating trade fair?

A group of Texas businessmen have booked the big liner--which will be extensively changed for this purpose--for an unprecedented journey in the fall and early winter of 1974. For two months the ship will visit African, Middle Eastern and European ports to promote sales of products of the Lone Star State. More than 500 exhibition booths will be set up on six decks. The public rooms on the ship will become industrial pavillions and the staterooms and suites will house many of the planned exhibits. An oil drilling rig will occupy one of the lower decks, and a scaled-down Astrodome along the lines of the famous domed stadium in Houston will be created on the top deck for more exhibits.

The cruise will cover lucrative markets in North Africa, the Soviet Union, Greece, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, England, Turkey, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Spain, France and Germany. It is planned that the ship will spend three days in each port.

This project shows the imagination and initiative of Texas businessmen at their best.

* * *

OUR OWN FRUIT TREES -- My Washington office, which we regard as a service and promotion center for South Texas, is now more like home than ever, thanks to the installation of a miniature orange tree and a miniature lemon tree sent to me by my friends at

Alamo Fruit. These beautiful little trees attract the instant attention of all visitors. They are real conversation pieces. And I can give full assurance that everybody in the office is treating them very gently while they adjust to the Washington climate.

The trees give us one more talking point in plugging South Texas here in the Nation's Capitol!

* * *

TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES -- The House has passed a bill to give the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare new authority to support the development and expansion of emergency medical service, which includes helicopters.

Committee hearings on the bill made it clear that attention must be given to medical emergencies. Some 55,000 people die every year in automobile accidents. Sixteen thousand children die every year in accidents. More than 275,000 people die every year from heart attacks before they reach the hospital. Experts have estimated that the cost of accidental death, disability and property damage is \$28 billion a year. The legislation is designed to create the kinds of emergency medical services we are already capable of delivering and thus attack this problem at its source.

* * *

BEAUTIFUL AMERICA -- Next year will mark the 80th anniversary of the writing of the famous and inspiring song "America the Beautiful." A resolution to commemorate this anniversary has been introduced in the House. It proposes to designate 1973 as "America the Beautiful Year." This is of interest to South Texans since we live in what is by any standard of assessment one of the most attractive areas in the U.S.

The resolution does not involve setting up committees or appropriating public funds or establishing government programs. What it calls for, instead, is individual effort--by churches, businesses, towns, industries and institutions--embodying the principles of conservation, historic preservation, and enlightened planning. These principles are well understood in South Texas, and their continued application will lead us toward realization of the ideals expressed so eloquently in "America the Beautiful."

* * *

JUAREZ PORTRAIT -- I was honored to participate with Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield in the presentation of a portrait of Benito Juarez to the Library of Congress. The portrait will hang in the Hispanic Room of the Library as part of its treasures for the Nation to enjoy. In behalf of the President of Mexico the presentation was made by Dr Jose Juan de Olloqui, Ambassador from Mexico. The presentation was another highlight in the Benito Juarez Centennial being celebrated in Mexico.

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